

Work Session/Regular Meeting
Minutes
March 6, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Leonia, Bergen County, New Jersey, was held this evening in the Borough Hall Annex, commencing at 7:35pm

Council Present: Mayor Laurence Cherchi, Councilperson Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci, Ryan, Puzzo

Council Absent: none

Also Present: Fran Lehmann, Borough Clerk, Michael Ganio, Alternate Borough Attorney, Victoria Miragliotta, Borough Administrator

Mayor Laurence Cherchi called the meeting to order.

Mayor Laurence Cherchi asked everyone to stand while Councilman President Puzzo led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPEN MEETING STATEMENT

Conditions of the Open Meeting Act have been met by Notice placed on the Bulletin Board at Borough Hall and notices sent to the Official Newspaper.

Mayor Cherchi pointed out the Fire Exit.

A moment of silence for Ray Maneville was head of Ethics Committee.

PROCLAMATION Mayor Cherchi presented Richard Palca with a Proclamation.

PRESENTATION

Chief Ziegler made a presentation to the Governing Body and those assembled regarding traffic issues in the Borough. The Council expressed their concern regarding public not knowing who the Police Officers are.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Valerie Pane, 650 Oakdene Avenue, Ridgely NJ – Ms. Pane is a member of “Cat Call” which is a group who is trying to rescue the cats in the Highwood Hills area. Ms Pane updated the Council on the number of cats that have been trapped. Mayor Cherchi asked Ms. Pane to keep the Borough Administrator informed to the progress.

46 Peter Pulice, Sylvan Avenue – Mr. Pulice spoke on behalf of Jack Peters as Zoning
47 Official; Mr. Pulice has worked with Mr. Peters on various projects and he feels that Mr.
48 Peters would be the right choice for the position.

49
50 Resident, 470 Palisades Boulevard, Palisades Park, - Spoke regarding the cats in
51 Highwood Hills.

52 53 **RESOLUTIONS**

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55 A motion was made by Council President Puzzo, seconded by Councilman Hawkins to
56 approve Resolutions 06-74, 75, 77 through 81. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Hawkins,
57 Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes. Resolutions approved.

58 59 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 60 a.) Amend Shade Tree Ordinance, Tree Safety Evaluation (Councilman Raucci)
61 Councilman Raucci explained his concerns to the Governing Body regarding
62 the removal of trees and topping of trees and replacement of trees, and who's
63 responsible while waiting for Shade Tree to make inspections and
64 recommendations. The Governing Body discussed the process.
65
- 66 b.) Birdsall Report on Spring Street Sewers (Councilpersons Hawkins & Heveran)
67 Mayor Cherchi reported that there was a report by Killiam that there are several
68 areas that need to be repaired perhaps all of those should be reviewed and
69 included in those repairs. Mayor Cherchi would like Birdsall to review the entire
70 report and make a recommendation to the Governing Body. The Borough
71 Administrator explained the loan program from the State.
72 Councilwoman Heveran made a motion to approve Resolution 06-76, seconded
73 by Council President Puzzo. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Hawkins, Heveran,
74 Mitrani, Raucci, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes. Resolution 06-76 approved.
75
- 76 c.) Discussion of Gil Hawkins Cell Phone Bill as Liaison to the Overpeck Preserve
77 (Council President Puzzo)
78 A discussion was held regarding reimbursing Councilman Hawkins for his cell
79 phone bill as Liaison to Overpeck Preserve.
80 Council President Puzzo made a motion to copy Resolution 05-113, seconded
81 by Councilman Raucci. Councilwoman Heveran suggested amending the
82 resolution. After a discussion by the Governing Body, Council President
83 withdrew his motion. Councilman Raucci withdrew his second on the motion.
84
- 85 d.) Budget Update Councilwoman Heveran brought the Governing Body up to
86 date on the Budget. The Committee feels the Budget is ready for introduction
87 on March 20, 2006.
88
- 89 e) Salt Shed Councilman Ryan brought to the Governing Body that the Borough
90 needs to move forward with the salt shed. The Borough Administrator stated
91 she is waiting for plans from the engineer. Palisades Park is interested, and a

letter has come from Fort Lee stating they cannot accommodate Leonia. Once everything is in place then she will complete the shared services paperwork and move forward.

- f.) Councilman Raucci asked to have the Laws & Ordinance Committee appointed. He feels there is a lot of work to be done and this needs to be addressed. Councilman Raucci made a motion to nominate Councilwoman Mitrani, Councilman Hawkins, and Council President Puzzo as Chair to Laws & Ordinance Committee, seconded by Councilman Hawkins. Roll call vote; Councilman Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes motion carried.

Mayor Cherchi appointed Marion Friedensohn to Historic Preservation to replace Joe Fratello.

NEW BUSINESS

- a.) Fort Lee Road/Glenwood Avenue Council President Puzzo spoke to the Borough Engineer about the feasibility of left turn lanes on Glenwood Avenue onto Fort Lee Road. After a discussion by the Governing the issue was to be given to the Traffic Officer for review. Councilman Puzzo stated the engineer has reviewed and it is wide enough to make the lanes.

- b.) Stop Signs Glenwood Avenue – Councilman Puzzo explained the idea behind more stop signs on Glenwood Avenue. After a discussion by the Governing Body, Councilwoman Mitrani made a motion to have the ordinance prepared for four way stop signs on Hillside and Glenwood, Allaire and Glenwood and 3 way stop signs on Sylvan and Glenwood seconded by Councilwoman Heveran. Roll call vote Councilpersons Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes. Motion carried.

As it was 10:00pm Council President Puzzo made a motion to extend the meeting until 10:30, seconded by Councilman Raucci. All in favor none opposed.

- c.) Councilman Raucci asked to have a resolution prepared by the Borough Attorney allowing him to donate his services to the Leonia Pool as a consultant. There were no objections from the Council resolution to be prepared for March 20.

- d.) Authorizing Birdsall to review the plans for a projecting affecting the Leonia Pool Councilman Raucci brought his concerns to the Council regarding plans before the Planning Board that would affect the Leonia Pool. Mayor Cherchi stated the Planning Board Engineer would review the plans on behalf of the Borough.

e.) Sump Pump Issues The Council discussed the issues of sump pumps draining water onto Borough Streets. This item will be discussed again at the meeting of March 13.

At this time Councilman Ryan made a motion to extend the meeting for an additional 20 minutes, seconded by Councilwoman Heveran. All in favor none opposed.

f.) Utilities, Street Opening Ordinances – Councilman Ryan explained why this item was on the agenda. Councilman Ryan is looking for an Ordinance. The Borough Administrator explained she has an ordinance prepared and waiting for input. The ordinance will be distributed at the next meeting for Council review.

g.) Leonia Day JIF Coverage for participating Leonia Organizations – Councilman Ryan spoke about a new art group that is looking for quasi insurance coverage the same as the Sports Boosters.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

CLOSED SESSION (RESOLUTION)

A motion was made to go into closed session by Councilwoman Heveran, seconded by Councilman Raucci. All in favor; none opposed.

Councilman Puzzo made a motion to come out of Closed Session, seconded by Councilman Raucci. All in favor none opposed.

A motion was made by Council President Puzzo to pay Jack Peters as Acting Zoning Official a salary \$5,000 for the year, seconded by Councilwoman Heveran. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci, Ryan, Puzzo voted yes. Motion approved.

Councilwoman Heveran made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Puzzo. All in favor; none opposed.

As there was no further business before the Governing Body, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Lehmann
Borough Clerk